

Fiscal Estimate Narratives
DOC 3/20/2009

LRB Number	09-1372/1	Introduction Number	SB-102	Estimate Type	Original
Description Periods of revocation of driving privileges after committing certain offenses related to operating a vehicle while intoxicated					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Current law begins the period of revocation of a driver's license at the time a person commits an offense related to operating a vehicle while under the influence of a drug or intoxicant, operating a vehicle with a prohibited blood alcohol concentration, or refusing to take a test for intoxication.

This bill delays the start date of drivers license revocation until the first day the offender is no longer jailed or imprisoned. Offenders are required to notify the Department of Transportation upon release.

According to an August 2007 report, "The Significance of a Driver's License in the Modern Urban Economy", slightly over 50% of annual license revocations in Milwaukee are for non-traffic offenses, including failure to pay fines, driving without a valid license, failure to pay child support or truancy as a juvenile. The report also indicates current law is complicated, often requiring legal or other specialized training to sort out the remedies necessary to secure a new driver's license.

Currently, the Department's policy is to assist inmates in securing a driver's license, as part of pre-release from prison/reentry into the community. According to the UW-Milwaukee Employment and Training Institute, individuals whose licenses were reinstated saw a rise in income and in full-time and part-time employment levels.

It is assumed that this bill will affect only those license revocations which are related to traffic offenses [<50%] further reduced for only those revocations that occur after the effective date of the bill. Thus, it is assumed that the Department's current pre-release program could continue to operate at current levels for a period of time but would see increased costs once offenders, whose license revocations start at the time of release, begin to reach their release dates. If unemployment levels among released offenders grow, due in part to lack of a driver's license, the Department may incur increased costs because of lower supervision fee collections and electronic monitoring fees as well as additional Department payments for housing or community based treatment programs. We are not able to estimate the precise number of offenders this legislation will affect or the fiscal impact on the Department.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications